Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method for determination of characteristics and/or classification of circulating macrophages ~~and/or peripheral mononuclear blood cells~~ comprising the steps of:

taking whole blood and performing gradient centrifugation for isolating macrophages[[,]];

performing perforation ~~and~~ of said macrophage cells;

performing intracellular staining of said cells with at least one selected antibody; and

performing flow cytometric analysis of said pre-treated cells comprising subsequent counting and analysis of physical and molecular characteristics of a plurality of cells.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Method of claim 1, wherein said at least one selected antibody comprises prostate-specific antigen (PSA), cytokeratin or epithelial membrane antigen.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Method of claim 1, wherein, after carrying out flow cytometry, performing histogram analysis of the isotype control and staining of said cells.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Method of claim 1 for detecting parts of tissue cells uptaken by phagocytosis of a scattered prostate tumor outside the human body.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Method of claim 4, wherein by staining of PSA in said macrophages, it is determined whether said material taken up by phagocytosis is prostate relevant.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A kit for carrying out said method of claim 1 comprising means for heparinizing drained blood, a gradient centrifuge for isolating macrophages, means for cell perforation, a device for intracellular staining of said pretreated cells with fluorochrome antibodies and a flow cytometer comprising a computer supported evaluation unit for determining the intracellular structure of the isolated and pretreated cell for the purpose of early ~~diagnostic~~ diagnosis of tumors.